

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 09833 262006Z
ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 EB-08 /020 W
-----047156 270308Z /63
R 261227Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2424

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 9833

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAG: BENC, IN
SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECT: U.S. VISIT TO FOI MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS

REF: (A) STATE 159230, (B) NEW DELHI 9512

1. EMBASSY REGRETS WORDING DELHI 3247 PARA 3 MISUNDERSTOOD.
"OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL" WAS MEANT TO MEAN INTERNATIONAL
TRAVEL PORTION, AND SHOULD HAVE BEEN WORDED MORE CLEARLY.
THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN GOI POLICY IN THIS REGARD.

2. GENESIS OF VERMA TRIP WAS SUGGESTION OF HUGHES COMPANY,
AND SINCE THEN MINISTER'S OFFICE HAS BEEN IN COMMUNICATION
WITH FORD AEROSPACE, GTE, ITT AND WE BELIEVE WESTERN
ELECTRIC AS WELL. ALL OF THESE COMPANIES HAVE OBVIOUS
INTEREST IN LARGE PROCUREMENTS BY INDIA ANTICIPATED IN
THE NEAR FUTURE FOR SPACE AND GROUND COMMUNICATIONS
SYSTEMS. A TRIP TO THE US BY THE COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER,
THEREFORE, WOULD ENHANCE PROSPECTS FOR SALE OF US EQUIP-
MENT IN THIS IMPORTANT FIELD. VERMA WILL ALSO STOP IN
EUROPE ON THIS TRIP PRESUMABLY TO VISIT FACILITEIS OF
US COMPETITORS.

3. WE HAVE EXPLORED POSSIBILITY OF USING SOME OF POST
IVP GRANT MONEY, BUT UNFORTUNATELY IT HAS BEEN FULLY
COMMITTED. MEPD MAY WISH TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF
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CENTRAL IVP GRANT FROM ICA IN WASHINGTON (ICA/INDIA WOULD
ENDORSE USE OF MONEY FOR THIS PURPOSE). WE WOULD ALSO
ENDORSE AN OFFER TO GOI TO PAY FOR ONLY TWO MEMBERS OF
PARTY (MINISTER AND ONE OTHER). ON THIS BASIS, AMOUNT
NEEDED WOULD NOT BE VERY LARGE.

4. ACCORDING TO HIS SPECIAL ASSISTANT, VERMA'S TRIP HAS

NOW BEEN APPROVED BY THE PRIME MINISTER. TO ACCOMDATE
SECRETARY KREP'S CALENDAR AND HIS OWN SCHEDULE HERE,
MINISTER PREFERS TO SPEND MAXIMUM EIGHT DAY SIN US BEGINNING
SEPTEMBER 4. HE PLANS STOPS IN EUORPE BEFORE BEFORE AND AFTER
US VISIT.

5. SPECIAL ASSISTANT GUPTA SUGGESTS ITINERARY IN US
COULD BE ARRANGED AROUND MEETING WITH SECRETARY KREPS.
IF APPOINTMENT WITH SECRETARY IMPOSSIBLE IN VERMA'S PRE-
FERRED SCHEDULE, GUPTA THOUGHT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE DELAY
ARRIVAL TO SEPTEMBER 11.

6. GUPTA REQUESTED CONFIRMATION THAT DATES WULD BE
ACCEPTABLE. IF SO, HE WOULD PREPARE SUGGESTED ITINERARY
FOR US FOR CONSIDERATION.
BLOOD

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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